July/Aug 1919

4

Monks' House,
Rodmell

Sunday

Dearest,

We are now more or less settled. Of course, my necklace broke the first thing, but I think necklaces always do on getting into a new house.

When do you go to London? I will try & come over one day before; unless you & Duncan & Clive would come here. I've not yet found out about a thing, but there seem to be several. However it is extremely easy to get into Lewes.

There's great hope for dispensers here, & a niche in the

NYPL

4v

wall where I want to stand a statue.
My great family pieces looks very
handsome. We spend all our
time picking apples & pears which
we sell in the village. It is
a great squeeze after Abraham &
we have to use the loft as an E.C.

How are the children getting on
in Scotland?

GB.

We have 2 spare rooms so do
come for the night if you can.

5

Monks House
Rodmell.

~~Tue~~ Tuesday.

Dearest,

If I can I will come over to lunch on Friday & spend the afternoon. I shall take the train to Glynde.

We have had one domestic crisis after another (Nelly asked me not to tell you, but she says she told you herself) however, they have now gone to the extreme of good spirits, which I suppose may last a day or two. Otherwise we begin before breakfast with

5v

lamentations, tapers are packed
about eleven o'clock, & the
general reconciliation takes
place at 12 precisely.
Nelly however has been angelic —
it's only that wild ass Lotty.
But I sometimes think domestic
life is hardly worth while.
I wish you could have come here.
NYPL
This place has great charms —

Yrs B.

HARRIS 2/10/69

Oct 27
1919

Hogarth. Monday.

Dearest,

Of course you always know more about writing than anyone else. I was immensely pleased by your letter, - I think I'd rather please you than anyone, partly as an because I feel that it's all your doing if I have any wits at all. Where should I have been if it hadn't been for you, when Hyde Park Gate was at its worst! You must admit the Apes were a fair handful in those days. I'm longing to hear what else you think when you come to the end - if you ever do. I'm a little surprised that it gives you the horrors. When I was writing it, I didn't think it was much like our particular Hell - but one never knows. Yours & Clive's are the only letters I've had, so I suppose most

of my friends find it rather tough - But I'm amazingly callous. & I'm quite content with my dear Wolfkins good opinion — Especially as the says it will take a practical form. Of course. I should like a picture above all things: but, as a matter of fact, I was thinking of asking you to do a small job for me — to paint the Greek vase I brought from Corinth. Could you? It's a kind of terra cotta.

NYPL

How infernal about Bridge! It's all Boris' doing apparently; he seems to be most disagreeable & after advising her to go, turned round & refused to pay the lady. I'm afraid it useless to suggest anything else to her — at least Nelly seems to think so. Shall I go to the Registry here? I feel, though, that I have a fatal effect upon your domestics.

Shall I come & see you on Friday?

27 OCT 1919

tea or
I might be able to come to supper - I
suppose you weren't thinking of going to
the Russian dancers? I want to
but they're so expensive. We're
threatened with a visit from Sydney
who now thinks himself the greatest
man in England & I want to be out.

Ka came here the other day - very
model & maternal & tremendously well
pleased with herself. She will go on
saying how mad & wild Will is, -
I feel he must really be as mild as a
guinea pig - a neurotic guinea-pig.
He is painting hard - I wish Ka
wasn't always so damned understanding.
She wouldn't mention Night & Day
if she tried.

Shall I get a notice of the London

group.[2] I want to so very much, & perhaps I might write an adequate gift, but I understand that you'd rather I didn't. I meant to send you my stories, but I've had such a rush of Xmas to do, I've had no time to copy them.

I'll ring you up a wk about Friday later.

O how I adore you!

B.

The dedication was, you know perfectly well if you weren't so dreadful meant every word – in fact there would have been a good many more if I hadn't been afraid of being thought sentimental; & I meant to write my dear Duncan's name with yours (in ink) but again said he wd. prefer not.

Xmas sentiments are such

NYPL
HAMILL 12/29/69

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Hamilton 12/29/69

Thank you very much for such kind remarks

1919 Dec.

10

Hoyarka

Wednesday

Dearest.

Here are some handkerchiefs for Dolphin's mout. They are really scents size, so you might cut them in half.

Do write me an account of Xmas at Scend – do they will have the cards up? You know how I miss detail consumes me. Every I'm afraid we shant get away on Friday after all. Ferguson won't let me get up so long as I have this little temperature. It's an infernal nuisance but it may go down today.

If you come

10v

back on Saturday & we're shall
love, & wone I should much
enjoy a visit, but ga'll have
the boats I suppose, & no cook
as usual.

I hope Jordan Sq^re is settled
Adrian & Karen seem very
hard up. We hear that
the agents [illegible] have no difficulty
Schuy H P G
Do write

JB.

NYPL

Hamlet 2/10/68

Jan 1920

11

Monks House
Rodmell

Friday

Dearest,

I suppose the necklace is bewitched, but it must be a very forcible devil, as the string is jerked apart. I'll bring it to show you. I chose the handkerchiefs at night, & next morning I was amazed at the colours. Did you know that they change? Perhaps you did.

We have had storms, hail, thunder, rain — mud to our knees, every conceivable horror until today when it might be June, except that it's freezing. I feel much better — though attacked with heart disease, for'll be sorry to hear, the day before we left. I thought I was probably dying, but Ferguson says it's only the nerves of the heart so wrong after influenza, & set all right. & he's given me some medicine, & I'm practically recovered. But I'm afraid I shan't get much pity from you; though that's what I'm after. I wonder why anything with one's heart makes one think one's dying.

I heard from Margaret Davies that she's been seeing Kitty Maxse, who asked after us, & said

She'd read Night & Day & thought it very bad, the characters
bloodless the writing dull, the love insipid; so Margaret said
that Katharine was meant for you, upon which Kitty
& claimed that she couldn't have guessed it & that
She always felt, & apparently still feels, the greatest
admiration for you. Why don't you ask her to dinner?
To console my lacerated feelings. Savage thinks N. & D. one of the
great novels of the world. Life is queer — But I see the
solution of it is to live down here without servants. Mrs.
Redman cooks our food in her cottage & brings it over
piping hot; a girl does the house in about 2 hours.
I suppose we save £3 a week. The peace is infinite.
I dread going back to the complications of Hogarth, but
we must on Thursday. Nelly ka is coming to stay
with us. Bob. T. has reached England, but I don't suppose
France will have made him either younger or handsomer.
Give my love to Roger. I hope his influenza is better.
When shall you get on to Jordan Lane — & when can I
invite my guests to have a roll? Have you a cook.
The girl here I believe wants a place in a town;
She's very nice so far; aged 18; has been housemaid —
I don't think she can cook. Barbara tried for Budge
without success, & seems half paralysed with
desperation, poor wretch; & that perhaps I regret to
tell of her & this girl.

Love to Angelica — I'm delighted
to hear that her taste is already infallible. & VW.

HA MS 2/10/66